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TERRITORIES IN CROATIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 16 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 16 September 1994 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granić, addressed to you.

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under item 151 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

* A/49/150.

Annex

Letter dated 16 September 1994 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of the Republic of Croatia is seriously concerned about the latest developments in the region. The continuing support by the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" for the Belgrade proxies in the occupied territories of Croatia as well as for the political and paramilitary leadership of Serbs in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is becoming a new source of increasing instability in the region.

A series of events attests to the ever-greater covert and overt cooperation of these three parties, in both the political and the military fields. An offensive by paramilitary units controlled by the Knin authorities against the United Nations-declared safe area of Bihać is continuing unabated. Our information indicates that these paramilitary units included up to 25 tanks, 40 artillery pieces of various type and calibre and numerous armoured personnel carriers (APCs); several complete or semi-complete units on the level of a brigade were reported to be active in this operation, with up to 1,700 troops.

The number of troops and equipment alone would indicate that this cannot be the action of local paramilitary units from the occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia. Further, a simultaneous action by the Bosnian Serb paramilitary units in the same safe area, in the view of the Croatian authorities, clearly indicates that this offensive is a coordinated and well-planned military offensive, with the goal to seize the Banja Luka-Knin railway.

Should this operation succeed, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and eventually in Croatia as well, would be further destabilized at a very critical juncture in the ongoing Contact Group peace initiative. I would also like to draw your attention to the extremely adverse effects this offensive is having on the plight of some 50,000 refugees from the region of western Bosnia: these unfortunate people are faced with the prospect of spending a winter in totally inadequate conditions and practically in the care of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

When this action around Bihać is put into the perspective of continuing attacks on two extreme locations in the territory of Croatia, the surroundings of Županja in the north and Dubrovnik in the south (S/1994/1052) - wider coordination of Serbian attacks, with the cooperation of Serbian paramilitary units from the occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia, the Bosnian Serb paramilitary units and units of the "Yugoslav Army" from the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" can clearly be established. It is the view of the Croatian Government that the actions were instigated, planned and coordinated from Belgrade.

The situation in Bihać is a test case on the resoluteness of the international community in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Security

Council, including those resolutions that provide for the control of the Croatian borders and the resolutions designating Bihać as a United Nations-protected safe area.

The attacks on Bihać, Županja and Dubrovnik clearly prove the Yugoslav/Serbian side's utter disregard for borders between sovereign United Nations Member States, and specifically for those under temporary United Nations supervision. These grave repeated incidents also prove their disregard for any type of cease-fire agreement.

One thus has seriously to doubt and question the willingness, or even the ability, of the Belgrade authorities to fulfil their commitment to continue the isolation of Bosnian Serbs, and to bring consequent pressure on the proxy authorities in the occupied territories of Croatia. In the view of my Government, the open involvement of the Knin paramilitary forces in the offensive attacks on Bihać clearly calls for tightening the sanctions against the Serbian authorities in the United Nations protected areas (UNPAs) as well. In view of the evident and clearly established collusion between Knin and Pale, the Security Council should immediately act accordingly.

I have to underscore once again the resoluteness of the Croatian Government in its position that any act of formal or factual political or military unification of the occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia with any entity on the territory of the former Yugoslavia shall not be tolerated, not only in light of the interests of Croatia, but also because any such act would be in clear contravention of every single United Nations Security Council resolution.

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs